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PALEONTOLOGY.—*An alcyonarian from the Eocene of Mississippi.*[1]

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Prof. J. Magruder Sullivan, of Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi, found in the Moody marl of the Eocene Jackson group on Town Creek in the city of Jackson a very interesting specimen representing part of the axis of an alcyonarian. As the Alcyonaria are not frequently found in fossil state it is deemed worth-while to record this occurrence.

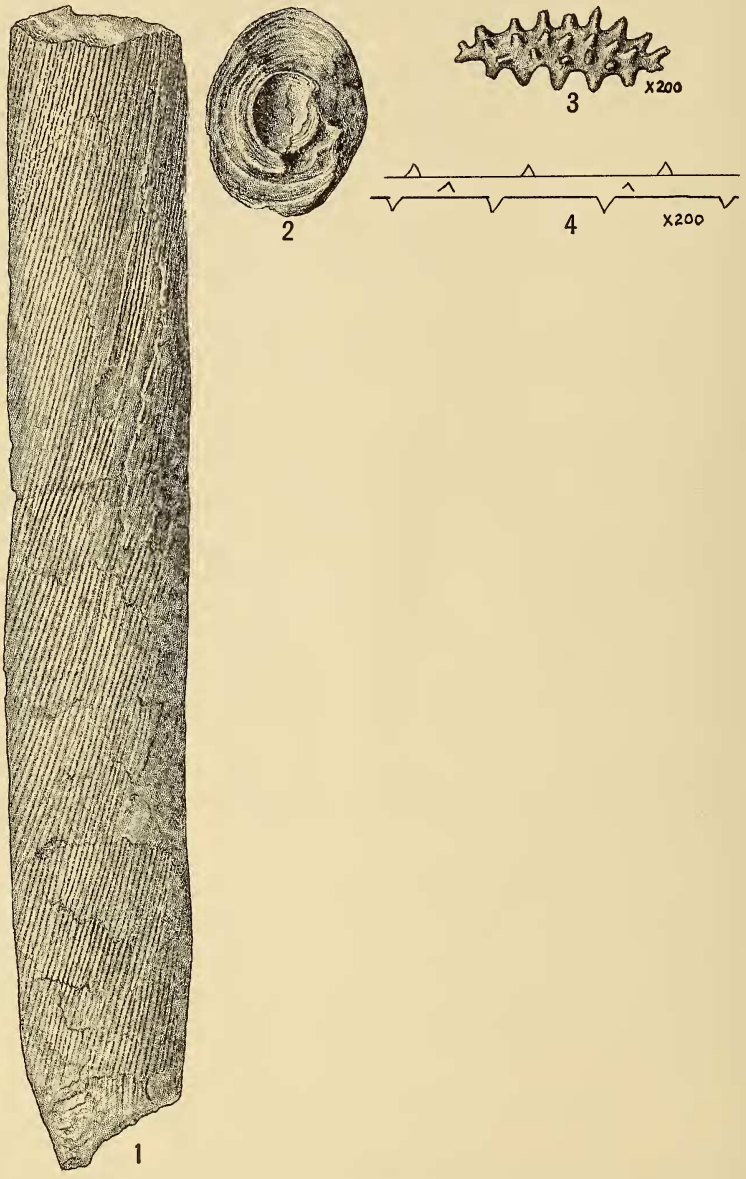
Eogorgia sullivani Hickson, n. gen. and sp.

Figs. 1–4

Description.—This specimen is about 170 mm in length by 25 mm in diameter and is cylindrical in shape. It consists of a series of concentric laminae of a calcareous substance mixed with grit and intercalated with an irregularly disposed black substance that is insoluble in acid. The surface is scored by a number of parallel grooves, with a slight spiral twist as regards

[1] Received December 7, 1937.

the axis of the specimen. The calcareous substance is mainly amorphous, but by an examination of fragments chipped off from and between the



FIGS. 1–4.—*Eogorgia sullivani* Hickson, n. gen. and sp. 1, side view of holotype ×1. 2, cross-fracture surface, ×1. 3, spindle-shaped spicule, ×200. 4, spicular needle, ×200.

laminae two kinds of spicules have been found—*a*, long slender needles of unknown length but about 0.015 mm diameter, provided with a few short

conical tubercles; *b*, thick spindles about 0.14 mm in length by 0.07 mm in diameter, provided with numerous prominent tubercles. These spicules are not easy to find among the amorphous calcareous debris, but I have found them in several preparations.

Remarks.—I am of the opinion that there are sufficient reasons for believing that this fossil was a part of the axis of an alcyonarian belonging to the Scleraxonia division of the Order Gorgonacea. The surface grooves probably correspond with the positions in which the main nutritive canals were situated, such grooves being occasionally found on the axis of Recent Gorgonacea. The black substance probably corresponds with the horny matter (usually called "keratin") which is commonly found in the axis of Gorgonacea. The amorphous calcareous matter may have been formed in the course of time by the solution of calcareous spicules and redeposition in an amorphous form. Some of the spicules remain in an unaltered condition. The long needle-shaped spicules (*a*) agree very closely with the spicules found in the sheath of the axis of the species of the Recent genus *Iciligorgia*, belonging to the Scleraxonia. The spindle-shaped spicules are similar to some of the spicules found in the axis of *Iciligorgia orientalis* of Australian waters.

The fossil has a diameter much greater than that of the main stem of any species of *Iciligorgia* I have seen, indicating that the whole colony must have been originally of great size; but specimens of another genus of Scleraxonia, *Paragorgia* of the Norwegian fjords, have been dredged with a diameter of the stem much greater than that of this fossil.

I do not consider that we are justified in referring this fossil to the genus *Iciligorgia* or to any other genus of Recent Gorgonacea, and as a new generic name must be found I would suggest that it be called *Eogorgia sullivani*, genotype and holotype, U.S.N.M. No. 510859.

BOTANY.—*New grasses from Oregon.*[1] AGNES CHASE, Bureau of Plant Industry.

Among grasses recently received from Professor Morton E. Peck, collected by him in little known regions of Oregon, are two undescribed species. One, a species of *Pleuropogon* is of especial interest, since it has paleas awned from near the base of the keels as in the type species of the genus, *P. Sabinii* R. Br. of Arctic America, which suggested the generic name. The only other species hitherto known, *P. californicus* (Nees) Benth. and *P. refractus* (A. Gray) Benth., of the Pacific Coast of the United States, have paleas toothed only. The new species is not closely related to *P. Sabinii*, which is a low plant, with small spikelets with awnless lemmas and paleas with short dorsal

[1] Received December 8, 1937.